The Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez 1 2 3 4 5 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE 8 RON GIPSON, 9 Case No. 2:17-cv-00505-RSM Plaintiff, 10 v. **DEFENDANT SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S** 11 ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S SNOHOMISH COUNTY; BRIDGET **COMPLAINT** 12 CLAWSON, in her role as former HR director; MARILYNN FINSEN, in her role as Court **JURY DEMAND** 13 Administrator; SHANE NYBO, his role as assistant administer; BOB TERWILLEGER, in 14 his role as former court administered; STEVEN BLADEK, in his role as Prosecutor; 15 CHARLOTTE COMER, in her role as 16 Prosecutor; JUDGE MICHAEL DOWNS, in his role as presiding Judge for Snohomish County; 17 SARA DIVITTORIO, in her role as Deputy Prosecutor for Snohomish County; RHEA 18 REYNOLDS, in her role as Human Resources 19 Director for Denney Juvenile Justice Center; JASON CUMMINGS, in his role as Deputy 20 Prosecutor for Snohomish County; MARCELLA FLEMING REED, in her role as 21 investigative agent Investigator for Snohomish 22 County; MARGIE HOLLOWAY, in her role as former Denney Youth Center Director; 23 BARBARA LUCKEN, in her role as Juvenile Correction Officer; KAREN HASTING, in her 24 role as Juvenile Correction Officer; and DEE 25 THAYER, in her role as Juvenile Correction Officer, 26 Defendants. 27 DEFENDANT SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO SNOHOMISH COUNTY

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT - 1

(2:17-cv-00505-RSM)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY - CIVIL DIVISION
Robert Drewel Bldg., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, M/S 504
3000 Rockefeller Ave
EVERETT, WASHINGTON 98201-4060
(425)388-6330/FAX: (425)388-6333

10

11

12 13

14

15 16

17

18

19 20

21

22

23 24

25 26

27

DEFENDANT SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT - 2

(2:17-cv-00505-RSM)

Defendant Snohomish County, (the "County") for its answer to Plaintiff's complaint

#### T. **PARTIES**

1. Answering Paragraph 1, the County admits the same.

admits, denies and states as follows:

- 2. Answering Paragraph 2, the County admits that Snohomish County is a political subdivision of the State of Washington and that the Denney Juvenile Justice Center is the location of Plaintiff's employment. The County denies all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 2 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 3. Answering Paragraph 3, the County admits Marilyn Finsen is currently the Superior Court Administrator for Snohomish County Superior Court. To the extent there are any additional allegations contained in Paragraph 3, the County denies the same.
- 4. Answering Paragraph 4, the County admits Shane Nybo is currently the Assistant Administrator for Superior Count for the Snohomish County Superior Court. To the extent there are any additional allegations contained in Paragraph 4, the County denies the same.
- 5. Answering Paragraph 5, the County admits Rhea Reynolds is currently the Human Resources Manager for the Snohomish County Superior Court. To the extent there are any additional allegations contained in Paragraph 5, the County denies the same.
- Answering Paragraph 6, the County admits Michael Downes currently is a 6. Snohomish County Superior Court Judge. To the extent there are any additional allegations contained in Paragraph 5, the County denies the same.
- 7. Answering Paragraph 7, the County admits Steven Bladek is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office. To the extent there are any additional

allegations contained in Paragraph 7, the County denies the same.

- 8. Answering Paragraph 8, the County admits Charlotte Comer is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office. To the extent there are any additional allegations contained in Paragraph 8, the County denies the same.
- 9. Answering Paragraph 9, the County admits Sara Di Vittorio is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office. To the extent there are any additional allegations contained in Paragraph 9, the County denies the same.
- 10. Answering Paragraph 10, the County admits Jason Cummings is the Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office. To the extent there are any additional allegations contained in Paragraph 10, the County denies the same.
- 11. Answering Paragraph 11, the County admits Marcella Fleming Reed (MFR) was hired by Snohomish County as an independent contractor. To the extent there are any additional allegations contained in Paragraph 11, the County denies the same.

### II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

The numbered Paragraphs in Section II of Plaintiff's Complaint begin at Paragraph 3.

- 3. Answering Paragraph 3, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 3 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 4. Answering Paragraph 4, the County denies RCW 4.92.010 confers jurisdiction over the parties in this matter.
- 5. Answering Paragraph 5, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph5 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
  - 6. Answering Paragraph 6, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph

6 of Plaintiff's Paragraph.

DEFENDANT SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT - 3

(2:17-cv-00505-RSM)

- 7. Answering Paragraph 7, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 7 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 8. Answering Paragraph 8, the County denies any wrongdoing, however, to the extent the complaint asserts allegations concerning the actions of Defendant Snohomish County, the County admits the actions as stated in the Complaint occurred in Snohomish County.

### III. FACTS

The numbered Paragraphs in Section III of Plaintiff's Complaint begin at paragraph 9.

- 9. Answering Paragraph 9, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph9 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 10. Answering Paragraph 10, the County admits Ron Gipson was elected to the Everett City Council in 1995, a position which he held until he lost an election in 2015 and his last term expired. The County denies the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 10 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 11. Answering Paragraph 11, the County admits that on or about January 21, 2014, Mr. Gipson he was notified of an EEO complaint of sexual harassment made by Karen Hastings, upon which he was placed on administrative leave. The County denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 11 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 12. Answering Paragraph 12, the County admits Mr. Gipson was placed on paid administrative leave, his keys were collected and his badge was deactivated. Snohomish County denies all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 12 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 13. Answering Paragraph 13, the County is without information sufficient to form a belief as to what Mr. Gipson felt, and therefore, denies the same. The County denies all remaining

allegations contained in Paragraph 13 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

DEFENDANT SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT - 4

14.

67

8

10

11

12 13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

2223

24

25

26

27

14 of Plaintiff's Complaint.15. Answering Paragraph 15, the County admits that on February 19, 2014, three

Answering Paragraph 14, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph

- employees working at the Snohomish County Juvenile Correction Center, through their attorney Robin Williams Philips, filed a damage claim which included allegations against Ron Gipson. The County denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 15 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 16. Answering Paragraph 16, the County admits that on February 14, 2014, Victoria Vreeland, counsel for Luther Weathersby, Ashley Thomas, and Ron Gipson, wrote a letter to Snohomish County alleging discriminatory treatment based on race. The County further admits that Luther Weathersby and Ashley Thomas are believed to be African-Americans and both are Juvenile Corrections Officer Supervisors. The County denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 16 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 17. Answering Paragraph 17, the County states that Ron Gipson has been an employee of Snohomish County since December 1996. The County denies all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 17 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 18. Answering Paragraph 18, the County admits that on February 6, 2014, it entered into a Professional Services Contract with Marcella Fleming Reed of the MFR Law Group to conduct an independent investigation regarding complaints of sexual and racial harassment as requested by the County EEO Officer. The County denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 18 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
  - 19. Answering Paragraph 19, the County states that the allegations contained in

Paragraph 19 of Plaintiff's complaint are not decipherable, and therefore, Snohomish County denies the same.

- 16(2). Answering the second Paragraph number 16 in Section III, Snohomish County admits it entered into an Agreement for Professional Services with Marcella Fleming Reed as an independent contractor. The County denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 16 of Plaintiff's complaint.
- 17(2). Answering the second Paragraph number 17 in Section III, the County is without information sufficient to form a belief as to what Mr. Gipson claims he was assured by unidentified persons, and therefore, denies the same.
- 18(2). Answering the second Paragraph number 18 in Section III, the County denies the same.
- 19(2). Answering the second Paragraph number 19 in Section III, the County denies the same.
- 20. Answering Paragraph 20, the County currently lacks information upon which to case a belief as to the truth of these allegations and therefore denies the same.
- 21. Answering Paragraph 21, the County admits that on March 13, 2014, it notified Mr. Gipson that it had received a complaint from Cathy Aiko Barkdoll alleging discriminatory treatment based upon gender and reporting instances of discrimination and/or harassment. The County denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 21 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 22. Answering Paragraph 22, the County is without information sufficient to form a belief as to conversations that may have occurred between Mr. Gipson's counsel and another

26

27

11

12 13

14

15 16

17

18

19

2021

2223

24

2526

27

Complaint

23. Answering Paragraph 23, the County admits that on April 10, 2014, it received a letter from Plaintiff's counsel, Victoria Vreeland, stating that the decision to place Mssrs.

defendant, and therefore, denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 22 of Plaintiff's

Weathersby and Gipson on administrative leave may be removed from her list of complaints of race discrimination. To the extent there are any additional allegations contained in Paragraph 23

of Plaintiff's Complaint the County denies the same.

24. Answering Paragraph 24, the County currently lacks information upon which to base a belief as to the truth of the allegations and, therefore, denies the same.

25. Answering Paragraph 25, the County is without information sufficient to form a belief as to what concerns Mr. Gipson has, and therefore, denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 25 of Plaintiff's Complaint

- 26. Answering Paragraph 26, the County asserts that it was not a party to the May 28, 2014 email described in Paragraph 26; however, the County has information sufficient to admit that Ms. Reed did email Ms. Vreeland on May 28, 2014, concerning Mr. Gipson's use of leave for civic duty, and asserts the email is the best evidence of its contents itself and therefore denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 26 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 27. Answering Paragraph 27, the County lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations and therefore denies the same.
- 28. Answering Paragraph 28, the County states that a fully executed Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$750,000.00 was entered into on December 9, 2014, between Snohomish County, Dee Thayer, Barbara Lucken, and Karen Hastings resolving pending

litigation in King County Superior Court between the parties. The County denies all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 28 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

- 29. Answering Paragraph 29, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph29 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 30. Answering Paragraph 30, the County, lacks information, including Plaintiff's failure to provide specificity in his allegations, upon which to base a belief also the truth of the allegations and therefore denies the same.
- 31. Answering Paragraph 31, the County, lacks information, including Plaintiff's failure to provide specificity in his allegations, upon which to base a belief also the truth of the allegations and therefore denies the same.
- 32. Answering Paragraph 32, the County, lacks information, including Plaintiff's failure to provide specificity in his allegations, upon which to base a belief also the truth of the allegations and therefore denies the same.
- 33. Answering Paragraph 33, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph33 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 34. Answering Paragraph 34, the County admits that on February 2, 2015, it issued four separate closure letters to Mr. Gipson notifying him of the closure of EEO complaints made by Ms. Barkdoll, Ms. Thayer, Ms. Hastings, and Ms. Lucken.
- 35. Answering Paragraph 35, the County states the Collective Bargaining Agreement is the best evidence of its contents itself and denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 35 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

//

27

Answering Paragraph 36, the County admits the allegations in Paragraph 36 of

36.

Plaintiff's Complaint.

DEFENDANT SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT - 9

SNOHOMISH COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY - CIVIL DIVISION
Robert Drewel Bldg., 8th Floor, M/S 504
3000 Rockefeller Ave
EVERETT, WASHINGTON 98201-4060

(425)388-6330/FAX: (425)388-6333

37. Answering Paragraph 37, the County admits the purpose of the February 18, 2015 letter was to notify Mr. Gipson of the pending disclosure and allow him an opportunity to enjoin disclosure. The County denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 37 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

- 38. Answering Paragraph 38, the County denies the same.
- 39. Answering Paragraph 39, the allegations contained in Paragraph 39 of Plaintiff's complaint are not intelligible, and therefore, the County denies all the allegations contained in Paragraph 39 of Plaintiff's Complaint
- 40. Answering Paragraph 40, the County admits that it sent Mr. Gipson correspondence on February 19, 2015, concerning his public records request PRR 14-06701. The County asserts the email is the best evidence of its contents itself and denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 40 of Plaintiff's Complaint that are inconsistent with its contents.
- 41. Answering Paragraph 41, the County admits that it sent Mr. Gipson correspondence on February 19, 2015, concerning his public records request PRR 14-06701. The County asserts the email is the best evidence of its contents itself and denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 41 of Plaintiff's Complaint that are inconsistent with its contents.
- 42. Answering Paragraph 42, the County admits that it received correspondence from Mitchell Cogdill, counsel for Mr. Gipson, dated February 25, 2015. The County asserts the letter

9

11

10

12 13

14

15

16 17

18

19 20

21

22

2324

25

2627

is the best evidence of its contents itself and denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 42 of Plaintiff's Complaint that are inconsistent with its contents.

- 43. Answering Paragraph 43, the County admits that it received correspondence from Mitchell Cogdill, counsel for Mr. Gipson, dated February 25, 2015. The County asserts the letter is the best evidence of its contents itself and denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 43 of Plaintiff's Complaint that are inconsistent with its contents.
- 44. Answering Paragraph 44, the County admits that Mr. Cogdill's February 25, 2015, letter requested a delay of at least a week "to assure what in our mind is being redacted." The remaining allegations are denied for lack of information.
- 45. Answering Paragraph 45, the County admits that it received correspondence from Mitchell Cogdill, counsel for Mr. Gipson, dated February 26, 2015. The County asserts the letter is the best evidence of its contents itself and denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 45 of Plaintiff's Complaint that are inconsistent with its contents.
- 46. Answering Paragraph 46, the County admits that it received correspondence from Mitchell Cogdill, counsel for Mr. Gipson, dated February 26, 2015. The County asserts the letter is the best evidence of its contents itself and denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 46 of Plaintiff's Complaint that are inconsistent with its contents.
- 47. Answering Paragraph 47, the County admits that it sent correspondence to Mitchell Cogdill, counsel for Mr. Gipson, dated February 27, 2015. The County asserts the letter is the best evidence of its contents itself and denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 47 of Plaintiff's Complaint that are inconsistent with its contents.

//

- 48. Answering Paragraph 48, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 48 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 49. Answering Paragraph 49, the County admits that it held a pre-disciplinary hearing on July 16, 2015, to consider allegations against Mr. Gipson. To the extent there are any remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 49 of Plaintiff's Complaint, the County denies the same.
- 50. Answering Paragraph 50, the County admits that on August 13, 2015 it issued a letter with the results of the pre-disciplinary hearing. The County further admits it imposed a thirty day suspension upon Mr. Gipson as discipline. To the extent there are any remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 50 of Plaintiff's Complaint, the County denies the same.
- 51. Answering Paragraph 51, the County admits Mr. Gipson filed a lawsuit against Snohomish County alleging violations of the Public Records Act. The County asserts the Complaint is the best evidence of its contents itself and denies any and all remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 51 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 52. Answering Paragraph 52, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph52 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 53. Answering Paragraph 53, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph53 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

### IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment Violations – 42 USC 1983)

54. Answering Paragraph 54, the County reasserts its answers in response to paragraphs 1-53 above.

//

1	55.	Answering Paragraph 55, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
2	55 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
3	56.	Answering Paragraph 56, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
4	56 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
5	57.	Answering Paragraph 57, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
6	57 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
7	SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION		
Ü		(Conspiracy to Violate Civil Rights – 42 USC 1985(3))	
9	58.	Answering Paragraph 58, the County reasserts its answers in response to	
10 11	Paragraphs 1-57 above.		
12	59.	Answering Paragraph 59, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
13	59 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
14	60.	Answering Paragraph 60, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
15	60 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
16	61.	Answering Paragraph 61, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
17 18	61 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
19		THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION	
•		(Violation of RCW 42.56 et seg)	
20 21	62.	Answering Paragraph 62, the County reasserts its answers in response to	
22	Paragraphs 1-61 above.		
23	63.	Answering Paragraph 63, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
24	63 of Plaintif	ff's Complaint.	
25	//		
26			
27	DEFENDANT SN	OHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO  SNOHOMISH COUNTY  PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CIVIL DIVISION	

1	64.	Answering Paragraph 64, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
2	64 of Plaintiff's Paragraph.		
3	65.	Answering Paragraph 65, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
4	65 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
5	FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION		
6	(Invasion of Privacy/False Light Disclosure)		
7	66.	Answering Paragraph 66, the County reasserts its answers in response to	
8	Paragraphs 1-65 above.		
9	67.	Answering Paragraph 67, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
10	67 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
11			
12	68.	Answering Paragraph 68, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
13	68 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
14	69.	Answering Paragraph 69, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
15	69 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
16 17	FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Vicarious Liability)		
10			
18 19	70.	Answering Paragraph 70, the County reasserts its answers in response to	
20	Paragraphs 1-69 above.		
21	71.	Answering Paragraph 71, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph	
22	71 of Plaintiff's Complaint.		
22		SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION	
<ul><li>23</li><li>24</li></ul>	SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Infliction of Emotional Distress)		
25	72.	Answering Paragraph 72, the County reasserts its answers in response to	
26	paragraphs 1-72 above.		
27			

DEFENDANT SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT - 13

(2:17-cy-00505-RSM)

SNOHOMISH COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY - CIVIL DIVISION
Robert Drewel Bldg., 8th Floor, M/S 504
3000 Rockefeller Ave
EVERETT, WASHINGTON 98201-4060
(425)388-6330/FAX: (425)388-6333

1	73.	Answering Paragraph 73, the County denies	the allegations contained in Paragraph	
2	73 of Plaintiff's Complaint.			
3		SEVENTH CAUSE OF AC (Defamation)	<u>CTION</u>	
4				
5	74.	Answering Paragraph 74, the County re	easserts its answers in response to	
6	Paragraphs 1-73 above.			
7	75.	Answering Paragraph 75, the County denies	the allegations contained in Paragraph	
8	75 of Plaintiff's Complaint.			
9	76.	Answering Paragraph 76, the County denies	the allegations contained in Paragraph	
10	76 of Plaintiff's Complaint.			
11		EIGHTH CAUSE OF AC	TION	
12		EIGHTH CAUSE OF AC (Negligence/Gross Neglig		
13	77.	Answering Paragraph 77, the County re	easserts its answers in response to	
14 15	Paragraphs 1-76 above.			
16	78.	Answering Paragraph 78, the County denies	the allegations contained in Paragraph	
17	78 of Plaintif	f's Complaint.		
18	79.	Answering Paragraph 79, the County denies	the allegations contained in Paragraph	
19	79 of Plaintif	f's Complaint.		
20	80.	Answering Paragraph 80, the County denies	the allegations contained in Paragraph	
21 22	80 of Plaintiff's Complaint.			
23	81.	Answering Paragraph 81, the County denies	the allegations contained in Paragraph	
24		f's Complaint.		
25		1 5 Companie.		
	//			
26	//			
27	DEFENDANT SNO PLAINTIFF'S COM	OHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO MPLAINT - 14	SNOHOMISH COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY - CIVIL DIVISION Pobert Drowel Bidg. 8th Floor, M/S 504	
	(2:17-cv-00505-RS	M)	Robert Drewel Bldg., 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor, M/S 504 3000 Rockefeller Ave EVERETT, WASHINGTON 98201-4060 (425)388-6330/FAX: (425)388-6333	

## NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Outrage)

- 82. Answering Paragraph 82, the County reasserts its answers in response to Paragraphs 1-81 above.
- 83. Answering Paragraph 83, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph83 of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 84. Answering Paragraph 84, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 84 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

# TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Loss of Consortium)

- 85. Answering Paragraph 85, the County reasserts its answers in response to Paragraphs 1-84 above.
- 86. Answering Paragraph 86, the County denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 86 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

The allegations in Plaintiff's Prayer for Relief are not factual averments requiring Defendants to admit or deny the same under the Rules of Civil Procedure. Nevertheless, responding to the averments in Plaintiff's Prayer for Relief, including Paragraphs numbered 1-6, Defendants deny that any such relief is warranted and affirmatively allege that Plaintiff should take nothing whatsoever by way of relief.

### V. AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Having fully answered Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant Snohomish County asserts that discovery and investigation may reveal that any one or more of the following affirmative defenses should be available to it in this case. Defendant Snohomish County therefore asserts the following affirmative defenses in order to preserve the right to assert them. If the facts warrant, Defendant DEFENDANT SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

26

27

may withdraw any of these affirmative defenses as deemed appropriate.

- 1. Plaintiff, as to one or more of his causes of action, has failed to state a claim against the County upon which relief may be granted.
- 2. One or more of Plaintiff's causes of action against the County are barred by applicable statutes of limitation.
- 3. One or more of Plaintiff's causes of action against the County are barred by Plaintiff's election of remedies or waiver.
- 4. One or more of Plaintiff's causes of action against the County are barred by absolute or qualified privilege.
- 5. One or more of Plaintiff's causes of actions against the County are barred by absolute, qualified, or discretionary immunity.
- 6. One or more of Plaintiff's causes of action against the County are barred by Plaintiff's failure to exhaust administrative remedies.
- 7. Plaintiff's damages, if any, are barred, in whole or in part, by his failure to mitigate any such damages.
- 8. Plaintiff's damages, if any, were caused by Plaintiff's own activities, which bar Plaintiff's right to recovery in whole or in part under the law of comparative fault.
- 9. Defendant Snohomish County at all times acted in good faith in the performance of its duties and is therefore immune, in whole or in part, from suit for the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 10. Defendant Snohomish County's actions manifested a reasonable exercise of judgment and discretion by authorized public officials and were made in the exercise of

1	government authority extended to them by law. Such actions are neither tortious nor actionable.	
2	11. Plaintiff lacks standing to prosecute claims for damages for persons other than	
3	himself.	
4	VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF	
5	WHEREFORE, Defendant Snohomish County respectfully requests that the Court grant	
6 7	the following relief:	
8	1. That Plaintiff's Complaint against Snohomish County be dismissed with	
9	prejudice, and that Plaintiff takes nothing by way of relief requested against Defendant	
10	Snohomish County;	
11	2. That Defendant Snohomish County be awarded its costs and attorneys' fees to the	
12	extent recoverable at law or equity;	
14	3. That the Court provide additional and further relief to Defendant Snohomish	
15	County as may be just and equitable under the circumstances.	
16 17	DATED this 7th day of April, 2017.	
18	MARK K. ROE	
19	Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney	
20	<u>s/ Joseph B. Genster</u> JOSEPH B. GENSTER, WSBA No. 14968	
21	MARIE N. GALLAGHER, WSBA No. 35588 Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys	
22	Attorneys for Defendant Snohomish County Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney – Civil Division	
23	3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 504 Everett, Washington 98201	
<ul><li>24</li><li>25</li></ul>	Phone: (425) 388-6330 / Fax: (425) 388-6333	
26	Joseph.Genster@snoco.org Marie.Gallagher@snoco.org	
-		

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE				
2	I hereby declare I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing <b>Defendant Snohomish County's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint</b> upon the person/persons listed by the method(s indicated:				
4 5 6	Ron Gipson, Pro se 6716 Morgan Road Everett, WA 98203 (425) 501-6000	☐ Electronic Filing (CM/ECF) ☐ Facsimile ☐ Email ☐ U.S. Mail ☐ Hand Delivery			
7 8 9 10	Marcella Fleming Reed, WSBA No. 21937 MFR Law Group PLLC PO Box 13980 Mill Creek, WA 98082-1980 T: (425) 201-0548 / F: (425) 357-3560 marcella@mfrlawgroup.com Pro se	<ul> <li>Messenger Service</li> <li>☐ Electronic Filing (CM/ECF)</li> <li>☐ Facsimile</li> <li>☐ Email</li> <li>☐ U.S. Mail</li> <li>☐ Hand Delivery</li> <li>☐ Messenger Service</li> </ul>			
12 13 14	I declare under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.  SIGNED at Everett, Washington, this 7th day of April, 2017.  Stefanie Palmer, Legal Assistant				
16	CERTIFICATE O	F SERVICE			
17 18	I hereby declare I served a true and correct cop <b>County's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint</b> upon the indicated:				
19	Shannon Ragonesi, WSBA No. 31951 Keating Bucklin & McCormack	⊠ Electronic Filing (CM/ECF)     □ Facsimile			
20 21	800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4141 Seattle, WA 98104-3175 T: (206) 623-8861 / F: (206) 223-9423	<ul><li>☐ Email</li><li>☐ U.S. Mail</li><li>☐ Hand Delivery</li></ul>			
22	sragonesi@kbmlawyers.com Attorney for Defendants Barbara Lucken, Karen	Messenger Service			
23 24	Hasting and Dee Thayer  I declare under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Washington that the				
25	foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowled SIGNED at Everett, Washington, this 7th day				
26	s/ Joseph B. Genster  JOSEPH B. GENSTER, WSBA No. 14968				
27	DEFENDANT SNOHOMISH COUNTY'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT - 18	SNOHOMISH COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY - CIVIL DIVISION			

ROSECUTING ATTORNEY - CIVIL DIVISION Robert Drewel Bldg, 8th Floor, M/S 504 3000 Rockefeller Ave EVERETT, WASHINGTON 98201-4060 (425)388-6330/FAX: (425)388-6333